

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2, 10-13, 17-18, and 20-21 have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830). Applicants contend that this rejection is improper, estopped and should be withdrawn, in that the Office Action of Record date mailed 4/3/2003 rejected claims 1-2, 10-13, 17-18, and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830), that Applicant's 7/28/2003 RCE Amendment amended the claims and traversed the combined teachings of Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830), and that the Office Action of Record date mailed 10/22/2003 conceded to this by switching to a rejection of the claims based on Efromson (US2538955) and not maintaining a rejection based on Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830). In view that this previous rejection of the claims as obvious over Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830) was withdrawn in the 10/22/2003 Office Action in response to Applicant's reply thereto, the present rejection based on this same combined teaching should be estopped and withdrawn, and at the very least its final status should be withdrawn.

In addition to the above request for withdraw of the present rejection of claims 1-2, 10-13, 17-18, and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830), Applicants again contend that the proposed combination of Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US 2367830) does not render the presently claimed invention obvious. The current Office Action states that "Nowak et al further lack the single sole resilient member being the sole resilient member providing for isolation between the suspended body and the support structure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to eliminate the second resilient member of Nowak et al should the additional support not be necessary or desired (for example, providing vibration isolation to light weight devices)." and then refers to *In re Larson*. In regards to *In re Larson*, Applicants contend that the present invention is not a case of simply making something integral into a single unit that was multiple parts in the cited prior art. The proposed prior art combination of Nowak (US5116030) in view of Kubaugh (US

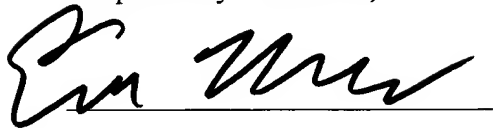
2367830) with the additional modification of eliminating “the second resilient member of Nowak” is improper in that this **proposed modification renders this cited prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose and changes the principle of operation of the Nowak reference**. The elimination of the second resilient member from this prior art combination renders the combination unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of providing “an improved fully bonded vibration isolator capable of incurring compression, shear and tension modes of loads internally while maintaining uniform characteristics regardless of direction of the load” [column 3, lines 38-41 Nowak US5116030]. A complete reading of Nowak combined with Kubaugh does not render the present claims obvious, even using the proposed motivation that the additional support of the second resilient member is not necessary or desired for light weight devices. In regards to such motivation for light weight devices Applicant’s note that the isolator of Nowak is designed for supporting light weight devices such as “a component box of electronic components used in an aircraft” [column 4, lines 27-28 Nowak US5116030]. In that the isolator of Nowak is already designed for light weight devices there would be no motivation to make this proposed modification for light weight devices. The proposed elimination of the second resilient member from the Nowak isolator is not proper in that it **renders the isolator unsatisfactory for its intended purpose** of incurring compression, shear and tension modes. The proposed elimination of the second resilient member from the Nowak isolator is not proper in that it **changes the principle of operation of the isolator**, in that Nowak needs both resilient members so that one resilient member can incur compression loads at the same time the other resilient member incurs tension loads. The principle of operation of Nowak is described at column 4, lines 51-54 in that the “orientation of the first and second elastomeric sections allow that the second elastomeric section 22 incurs compression and shear loads whereas the first elastomeric section 20 incurs tension and shear loads.” Thus the proposed removal of the second resilient member would change the principle of operation of the isolator since there would only be a single resilient member that would only be capable of incurring only compression and shear loads or only tension and shear loads, and not both simultaneously. For these reasons the present rejection based on this combined teachings of Nowak in view of Kubaugh should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 10-13, 17-18, and 20-21 have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Saurer (US2538658) in view of Nowak (US5116030). Applicants contend that the proposed combination of Saurer (US2538658) in view of Nowak (US5116030) does not render the presently claimed invention obvious. The current Office Action states that Saurer (US2538658) discloses a “single resilient member bonded to said shroud angled segment inner surface and said inner member surface”. Applicants traverse this rejection and this proposed combination in that a complete reading of Saurer (US2538658) shows that resilient member of Saurer is not bonded to the shroud angled segment inner surface. As shown in Fig. 2 of Saurer (US2538658) resilient member 3 is not bonded to the shroud angled segment inner surface below flange 5 so that air flowing through breather opening 10 forms an annular air space shown as a void. Fig. 4 further shows that the shroud angled segment inner surface below flange 5 is coated with a flux coating 12 which is a ““anti-stick” composition for preventing adhesion of rubber to metal” [column 4, lines 8-9 of Saurer (US2538658)]. Saurer specifically teaches away from the presently claimed bonding of the resilient member to the shroud angled segment inner surface, such as at column 3, lines 20-30 with the “body 3 of resilient material is bonded to the housing 1, this is not the case throughout the entire extent of their normally contacting surfaces, which is the state illustrated in Fig. 3. Instead an annular area of said body lying directly beneath flange 5 of the housing and desirably extending outwardly therebeyond to the point where the flaring portion of the housing side wall merges with the cylindrical wall thereof (see Fig. 2), there is no bond between said body and housing. Accordingly, upon axial movement of member 2 in a downward direction, as viewed in Fig. 2 and 3, and resultant distortion of the body 3 of resilient material, the unbonded annular area of the latter will draw away from the adjacent inner surface of the housing to provide an encircling cavity between the main portion of body 3 and flange 5, in which air may flow and from which it may be expelled through a breather opening 10.” Thus the proposed combination of Saurer in view of Nowak does not render obvious the presently claimed invention with said single resilient member bonded to said shroud angled segment inner surface and said inner member surface. Additionally the proposed combination of Saurer in view of

Nowak does not consist essentially of a single sole resilient member constrained between the shroud angled segment inner surface and the inner member seat surface that is the sole resilient member providing for isolation between the suspended body and the support structure. As shown in Fig. 3 of Saurer distinct parts of resilient body 3 are not constrained between the shroud angled segment inner surface of housing 1 and inner member 2, and these unconstrained parts of resilient body 3 provide for non-iso-elastic isolation in that these unconstrained parts are specifically designed to provide a nonlinear snubbing effect in the axial direction. The unconstrained part of resilient body 3 between flange 5 and supported member S ' in Fig. 2 of Saurer is progressively compressed between flange 5 and supported member S ' as supported member S ' is forced downward. The unconstrained part of resilient body 3 below flange 6 in Fig. 2 of Saurer is progressively compressed between flange 6 and supporting member S as supported member S ' is forced downward. These unconstrained parts of resilient body 3 clearly provide for isolation between the suspended body and the support member, with their progressive non-linear compression making the isolation non-iso-elastic in the axial direction for an applied load. As disclosed at column 3, lines 42-49 of Saurer under "normal load the portion of the resilient body 3 which lies above the inwardly directed flange 5 of housing 1 will be subjected to a certain degree of compression and this is likewise true of the lower annular portion of said body which lies below the outwardly directed flange 6 on the axially movable member 2." Thus the proposed combination of Saurer in view of Nowak does not render the claimed invention obvious, and actually teaches away from the invention as presently claimed. The proposed combination of Saurer in view of Nowak would have the resilient body 3 unbonded to the shroud angled segment inner surface of housing 1 and would have the unconstrained portion of resilient body 3 between flange 5 and supported member S ' providing isolation between supported member S ' and supporting member S.

Applicants contend that the current rejections of the present claims are not proper and must be withdrawn, that these arguments be entered in the record and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance of the present claims 1-2, 10-13, 17-18, and 20-21 in that they are not obvious in view of the cited prior art.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Murphy", written over a horizontal line.

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